

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01585 150702Z
ACTION PM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1585

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TW, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF WEST POINT CADETS TO TAIWAN

REF: 77 TAIPEI 2706

1. THIS SUMMER, AS IN PAST YEARS, THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT PLANS TO SEND FOUR CADETS AND ONE ESCORT OFFICER TO TAIWAN FOR A TWO-WEEK CHINESE LANGUAGE AND AREA ORIENTATION VISIT. THE PURPOSE OF THE CADETS' VISIT IS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF CHINA. SIMILAR TRIPS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS.

2. THE ITINERARY FOR THIS YEAR'S TRIP WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE, AS IN THE PAST, VISITS TO THE CHINESE MILITARY ACADEMY (CMA), SCENIC TOURS TO CHIAYI, ALISHAN AND SUN MOON LAKE, AND A VISIT TO EMBASSY LANGUAGE SCHOOL. A CALL IS USUALLY SCHEDULED ON THE CINC, ROC ARMY, AND ON THE SENIOR WEST POINT GRADUATE ASSIGNED TO TAIWAN. DATES FOR THIS YEAR'S TOUR ARE TENTATIVELY SET FOR JULY 29 - AUGUST 14. TRAVEL ORDERS FOR THE CADETS AND THEIR ESCORT HAVE NOT YET BEEN CUT, PENDING APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DATES. ESCORT OFFICER IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME, BUT WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FACULTY AT WEST
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POINT AND WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH TAIWAN. ALL TRAVEL/ LODGING WILL BE ARRANGED BY DAO, EXCEPT AT THE CMA, WHERE THE CADETS WILL LIVE IN CMA DORMITORIES.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS A RATHER LOW- PROFILE VISIT (LAST YEAR'S VISIT RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY), AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THIS PROGRAM IS OF

PRIMARY BENEFIT TO THE USG, WE ARE INCLINED NOT TO INTER-
POSE AN OBJECTION TO IT. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH
TO CONSIDER ISSUING GUIDANCE FOR NEXT YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT
YEARS.
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